8 both hemoglobin and the hemolysis reagent, including means for determining the

9 hematocrit % of the samples, and means for calculating a plasma concentration with the

10 hematocrit by the following equation:

11 $$A' = A \times 100/(100 - \text{hematocrit } \%)$$

12 where A is the absorbance, and A' is the corrected absorbance assuming that a plasma component in

13 the sample is 100%.

9. An immunoassay method of quantifying a predetermined antigen in a sample of

2 whole blood, comprising the steps of:

3 providing a sample of the whole blood;

4 adding a hemolysis reagent and a latex reagent directly to the sample of the whole

5 blood without any pre-treatment of the whole blood;

6 hemolysing the whole blood sample with the hemolysis reagent to hemolyse the

7 blood corpuscles;

8 reacting the hemolysed whole blood sample in an agglutination reaction to form a

9 reaction mixture wherein a predetermined antigen in the hemolysed whole blood sample

10 specifically reacts with an antibody immobilized onto an insoluble carrier;

11 irradiating the reaction products in the sample with radiation which include a

12 wavelength range which is substantially free from absorption by both hemoglobin and the

13 hemolysis reagent; and

14 measuring only in a wavelength range which is substantially free from absorption

15 by both hemoglobin and the hemolysis reagent, an absorbance of the incident radiation

16 through the reaction mixture to determine the quantity of antigens in the sample.

1   10.   The immunoassay method of Claim 9, wherein the step of measuring is performed

2   by determining the hematocrit percentage (%); and

3   calculating a plasma concentration with the hematocrit % as follows:

4                           $A' = A \times 100/(100 - \text{hematocrit \%})$

5   where A is the absorbance, and A' is the corrected absorbance assuming that the plasma

6   component in the sample is 100 %.

1   11.   The immunoassay method of Claim 9, wherein the step of hemolysing is

2   performed with a saponin aqueous solution.

1   12.   The immunoassay method of Claim 11, wherein the measuring step is performed

2   with the use of an erythrocyte counter.